

MEMORANDUM

To: MCWD Board of Managers

From: Michael Hayman

CC: Lars Erdahl, James Wisker

Date: May 10, 2015

Re: Minnehaha Creek Greenway: Update on partnership development with Japs-Olson

The Minnehaha Creek Watershed District has repeatedly taken efforts to integrate its planning and implementation with that of other public and private entities, incorporating natural resource improvements into the built environment in ways that create livable communities and are mutually beneficial to its partners.

This philosophy has been particularly useful within the urban corridor of Minnehaha Creek, between Highway 169 and Meadowbrook Lake, which produces the highest pollutant load per unit area when compared to all other segments of Minnehaha Creek. Within this strategic geography the District has engaged in partnership across sectors to align investments in water with non-water initiatives, often resulting in added environmental, economic and community value.

In 2013 the District initiated partnership discussions with the Japs-Olson Company, located at 7500 Excelsior Blvd. in St. Louis Park. Japs-Olson owns approximately 30.5 acres of land in the Powell/Meadowbrook Road area, bordered by the District's Powell Road stormwater diversion, Minnehaha Creek, and the Reach 20 stream and trail restoration.

In 2014, the MCWD Board of Managers authorized the execution of a partnership framework via a Letter of Understanding (LOU) with the Japs-Olson Company. That LOU contemplated a planning partnership to explore optimizing Japs-Olson's parking, enabling Japs-Olson to meet regulatory stormwater requirements associated with its redevelopment through use of MCWD's regional facilities, conveyance of a portion of the ApplianceSmart site to the District, and the relocation of a portion of Powell Road.

At the May 14, 2015 Board meeting staff will provide an update on partnership development, integrated planning efforts, and the potential for natural resource improvements and stormwater

management opportunities within the Powell-Meadowbrook area of the Minnehaha Creek Greenway.

Additional questions, comments, or ideas related to Japs-Olson partnership development can be directed to Michael Hayman at mhayman@minnehahacreek.org or 952.471.8226.